BASSIDEImage: Construction of the state of th



TIS THE SEASON

JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

More than 80 floats march down Main Street last Thursday during the annual Berlin Christmas parade. Entries included community groups, schools, nonprofits and local businesses.

Ocean Pines fiber pitch fouled off

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) Representatives from FTS Fiber and ThinkBig Networks briefed a few dozen homeowners and members of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors on Monday on the possibility of installing infrastructure that could bring state-of-the-art internet to the community.

The pitch was well-received with one exception: the chief executive officer of FTS also happens to be a board member and the interim general manager of Ocean Pines, Brett Hill, and some trepidations were raised about a possible conflict of interest.

Hill left the room without comment, apparently recusing himself, as the subject came up. Stepping in were FTS Senior Advisor Kenny Lawhorn and Chief Commercial Officer Adam Noll, and ThinkBig CEO Mark Wagner.

Board President Tom Herrick said there was some concern the police department was in need of direct fiber optic connectivity to the Worcester County Sheriff's Department, and that Hill asked the discussion be placed on the agenda of the monthly public work session.

Director Doug Parks, who recently formed an information technology working group in Ocean Pines, said the meeting with FTS and ThinkBig was a chance to educate the board and to become acquainted with the companies.

No decisions were imminent and he said Ocean Pines was "nowhere near" releasing a request for proposals for the project, but Parks underscored the fact that Hill had left the room.

"He's going to recuse himself from any kinds of discussion so that there's no level of impropriety or favoritism," he said. "We thought that it was in the best interest of everybody involved that he not be part of any of these discussions, even if it's just information. We just wanted to be very, very safe and very, very correct."

Lawhorn provided a brief overview in which he said, several times, that he would "love to be a part of the conversation" to bring fiber to Ocean Pines.

A slide displayed during the presen-

tation noted that "'The Ask' from FTS Fiber is for the Ocean Pines Directors' to grant an easement to FTS allowing for the building of a fiber optic network to support ThinkBig Networks."

Lawhorn said he had not met with Ocean Pines Police Chief David Massey, but said there were some discussions about "improving the public safety capabilities of the Ocean Pines Police Department."

According to the slide, the cost to connect Ocean Pines to Snow Hill police would be \$800,000 "over 20 years."

Connecting Ocean Pines to Snow Hill was "an investment we're willing to make for public safety," Lawhorn said, adding it would be "probably a nonrecurring charge upfront cost to us of about \$200,000 and another \$30,000 a year over 20 years to maintain the connectivity."

He "threw in an estimate" he added, for residential hookup in Ocean Pines. Those lines would act as infrastructure that could be leased by a company like See FTS FIBER Page 6

Shore Gives More lives up to name

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) Close to 60 local nonprofits received more than \$88,000 through the Shore Gives More campaign held in conjunction with Giving Tuesday.

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore oversaw the online drive, which began on Nov. 29 and continued to accept donations until midnight Friday.

The foundation launched the fundraiser last year, when two-dozen local nonprofits received donations.

"This year's Shore Gives More campaign exceeded all our hopes and expectations through the generous support of donors. We are very fortunate to have such a giving and caring community," foundation President Erica Joseph said in a press release this week.

While the majority of donations came in from Maryland and Delaware, people from 17 other states also contributed.

"It just goes to show you that you can leave the Eastern Shore, but the spirit of the shore never leaves your heart," Joseph said. "We are so grateful for this generous outpouring of support for charities in our area. We are excited for what the 2017 campaign holds."

Joseph speculated, "Many people in the area weren't familiar with Giving Tuesday" a year ago, but was bullish on the 2016 drive that provided help to nonprofits in three local counties.

The Hershey Family Fund at the foundation paid for all processing fees incurred, meaning 100 percent of donations went directly to the respective nonprofits.

Berlin Mayor Gee Williams, who also serves as the foundation's marketing director, said the 2016 operation "far exceeded our greatest expectations."

"It's just kind of nice during this period that began at Thanksgiving to see people being joyful again, generous again, thoughtful and courteous," he said. "All the things that maybe we used to take for granted, maybe they won't be taken for granted so much in the times ahead.

"We are exceptionally fortunate to live in a town that certainly has its challenges and certainly has things that we need to work on, but compared to most places on this earth we're all very lucky kids," Williams added.

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HIGH NOTES

JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Snow Hill High School Marching Band plays festive holiday songs on Berlin's Main Street, Thursday, during the town's annual Christmas parade.

Shooting death in Pocomoke City

James Allen Jr., 26, of Pitts Circle, pronounced dead of multiple gunshot wounds

By Brian Gilliland

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) James Allen Jr., 26, of Pitts Circle in Pocomoke City, died of multiple gunshot wounds last Thursday night during an incident that took place in area of the town's Fourth and Market streets, the Maryland State Police said.

Shortly after 10 p.m. that night, police received a 911 call from a passing motorist who reported seeing a man stagger and fall in the middle of the road.

Police believe the shooting occurred about an eighth of a mile away, in the area of Fourth and Oxford streets.

Investigators from the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit responded to the scene and led the in-

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vestigation. Those investigators are being assisted by the Worcester County Bureau of Investigation, MSP Criminal Enforcement Division investigators, the Pocomoke City Police Department, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and state police.

Crime scene evidence has been taken to the State Police Forensic Sciences Division crime laboratory for analysis.

Crime Solvers of the Lower Eastern Shore at 410-548-1776 is offering a reward of up to \$2,000 for information leading to an arrest in this case. Callers may remain anonymous.

State police spokeswoman Elena Russo said on Tuesday no new information about the case has been made public, but confirmed that so far, this incident has no connection to other incidents of unrest nearby.

In late July, several law enforcement agencies responded to the area of Fourth and Laurel Streets, about five blocks away from where the shooting is believed to have occurred, for a large altercation resulting in two arrests.

In early October three juveniles, two females and a male were arrested out of a larger group of individuals on minor charges for blocking the street in the same area.

Residents of the area complained to City Council about large groups of individuals roaming the streets and displaying unruly and defiant behavior.

The residents asked the council to consider a curfew, which it did — even going so far as to hold a public hearing on the topic. However, the idea was ultimately rejected as the town decided to reinforce the strategy of "community policing." This strategy hinges on increased police presence in certain locations to breed familiarity between officers and residents.

The town, at the time, also said it would look closely at installing a police substation in the area. Former PD Chief Sewell convicted of misconduct By Brian Gilliland

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) It took less than an hour last Thursday for a Worcester County Circuit Court jury to convict former Pocomoke City Police Chief Kelvin Sewell of misconduct in office. He was sentenced to three years of supervised probation and ordered to pay \$1,000 fine and court costs. A three-year jail sentence was suspended.

Maryland State Prosecutor Emmet Davitt requested a sixmonth jail term during sentencing, while the attorney for the defense, Barry Coburn, argued successfully that imposing jail time on a 30-plus year police officer with no prior criminal record for what amounted to a traffic case would be excessive.

The predominantly white jury of eight men and four women agreed with the prosecution's argument that Sewell, a former Baltimore City homicide detective, and another Pocomoke officer instructed others to write up an alleged hit-and-run incident as a simple accident as a favor for a friend.

The facts of the incident were never disputed. Close to midnight on Nov. 21, 2014 Doug Matthews, a guard at Eastern Correctional Institute at the time, was returning home from the Masonic Lodge in Pocomoke City. As he was making the drive, which was only a matter of blocks, his car struck two others but he continued to his residence, about another three blocks, before the car stopped functioning.

The owners of the damaged cars, alerted by a neighbor's phone call, discovered what Matthews did as he exited the car — the right front wheel, and part of the axle had been torn from the vehicle by the impact, and was laying in the street where the collision occurred.

Gail Conrad, wife and grandmother to the damaged car owners, said the damage to the vehicles was estimated between \$18,000-\$20,000.

See SEWELL Page 8



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Pregnant woman reports attack by police impostors

Brooklyn, New York victim pepper sprayed, punched, robbed and then released

By Brian Gilliland

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) Police continue to search for three men accused of impersonating police officers in order to rob a Brooklyn, New York woman just outside of Snow Hill on Dec. 1.

The unidentified, pregnant 38year-old woman told investigators she was driving to Norfolk, Virginia when she pulled over in response to a Chevrolet SUV with Maryland registration flashing blue and red lights.

The victim told police she was driving from her home to Norfolk in a rented vehicle, when she responded to the flashing lights in the area of the intersection of Whiton Road and Snow Hill Road.

The victim told police the first man approached the driver side of the car and sprayed pepper spray into the vehicle before spraying it onto a towel that he held over her face. The victim said she then got out of the car, and was punched in the stomach by same man.

The victim said the second man was holding a small black handgun and wearing a gold badge on a chain around his neck. He allegedly stole her purse, which contained cash and, according to the victim, an ornately jeweled belt of great value. The victim said the third man remained at the rear of the suspects' vehicle.

The three perpetrators then left the scene in their vehicle, and haven't been seen since.

The first assailant is described as an African-American male with short hair and a full beard. He was reported to be wearing a black suit, white shirt and tie.

The second man is described as a bald African-American male with no facial hair and was wearing black pants and a white shirt. He was said to be carrying a small black handgun.

The third person is described as a

white male with either a shaved head or short hair. He was described as wearing a zippered black hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

After the incident, the woman called 911 and was told to pull over so troopers could locate her. She was found in Powellville, near the intersection of Powellville Road and Webb Road, a few miles north of where the incident had allegedly occurred.

According to Google maps, the trip from Brooklyn to Norfolk by way of Snow Hill should take about seven hours. At the time of the incident, the trip was a little more than halfway complete.

"The first thing I want to say is that this doesn't occur often — we don't want to scare people," Lt. Ryan Bricker of the Salisbury barracks said. "Not everyone making a traffic stop is in uniform."

The best things to do, Bricker said, if a suspicious unmarked vehicle attempts to pull your vehicle over, is to find a well-lit or populated area and call 911.

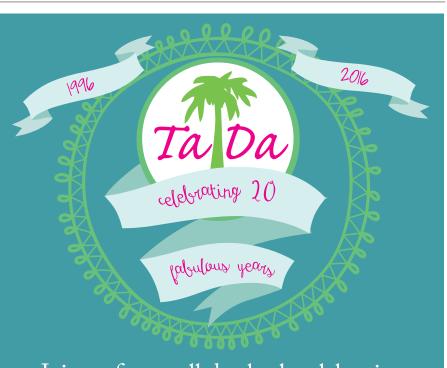
"You won't get a ticket for being on your phone," Bricker said. "Identify yourself and give a description of the vehicle or person. Don't open the door; don't open the window. Stay on the phone with 911, request to see the badge of the person approaching the vehicle and request a uniformed officer."

Bricker said drivers should tell the person who approaches the vehicle that 911 has been contacted and a uniformed officer is on the way.

A genuine police officer, Bricker said, would have no problems with any of these precautions. Someone attempting to impersonate an officer, he continued, might even be scared off at this point.

Anyone who may have seen these vehicles stopped in the area of Whiton Road and Snow Hill Road on Dec. 1, or who may have seen a vehicle matching the suspect vehicle description, is requested to contact Maryland State Police at 410-749-3101, or 410-641-3101. Callers may remain anonymous.





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FTS Fiber presentation causes conflict of interest accusation

FIBER continued

ThinkBig and used for a variety of services, from high-speed internet to streaming television services and video conferencing.

However, information packets produced by ThinkBig and available during the meeting seemed to dispel the idea that residential fiber in Ocean Pines was simply a side note.

"Ocean Pines = A Premier Gig Community," read one page in the packet, referring to the average download speed per second reportedly offered by fiber. "ThinkBig will provide a fully integrated fiber optic infrastructure end to end to the homes and businesses of Ocean Pines. ThinkBig will establish a local office to handle sales and support at Ocean Pines."

That sheet added "custom business packages" would be available and that residential prices would be \$99 per month. Special pricing would be given to residents that signed up early.

FTS and ThinkBig apparently collaborated to bring fiber infrastructure to Kent County earlier this year.

"That's a concept out there, you can go out and look it up," Lawhorn said of the fiber lines. "Right now you've got old copper planted out there, you've got old [coaxial cable] planted out there and really they all offer different services, but really where things are going with the future it's fiber to the home."

Director Cheryl Jacobs expressed reservations.

"I'm sure it's a huge opportunity for Brett's company," she said. "Exactly what would be the value of it to FTS if this were granted?"

Lawhorn said he did not have those numbers, but that he was "looking more at the risk side of it."

"Right now it's probably a \$10-\$15 million investment," he said. "The value, over time, would be in how many homeowners could we capture and how many lines could be leased to Mark."

"It's utility-like in the concept in terms of the investment, so it's a longterm investment," Noll said. "The value overall is the fact that Mark wants to be our customer. Without Mark we wouldn't be looking to lay the fiber in Ocean Pines, because this is something he was interested in doing."

Jacobs asked what, exactly, the value would be in leasing that infrastructure.

"There's a real need to get broadband out to the underserved communities," Noll said. "We've secured the funding to know that if we can get the business case in, we can build out, essentially, a spider web of networks through to Delmarva. The value is long term."

Just like any customer that's getting internet service, Noll added, "there's a monthly bill."

"The percentage on that, based on what our agreement [with Wagner] is, that would be funneled back to us," Noll said.

Lawhorn said FTS is building a "backbone" of fiber lines from Virginia Beach to Baltimore. "We're going to be coming through here anyway," he said. "We get some value by putting a few additional customers onto that backbone. That's the value to FTS."

Lawhorn added that value would likely be "pretty small in the scheme of things with the overall investment that FTS is going to make."



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FTS Fiber Senior Advisor Kenny Lawhorn briefs the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors on a plan to bring high-speed, fiber-optic Internet to the community during a work session on Monday.

"The question is, I don't know how important it is for your police department to be connected into a more fiber-optic type real-time network," Lawhorn said. "To me, that's kind of the part I saw initially. I haven't even run the numbers to say, 'how much money will FTS make on this?"

In her mind, Jacobs said there was a "serious conflict of interest with Brett, who serves not only as a director, but as the GM."

"I have concerns about that," she said. "I understand you're not doing this for free – there's got to be some value and you're going to make some money off of this, otherwise you wouldn't be interested."

Other directors seemed less apprehensive, with one comparing the accusations of impropriety to those facing President-Elect Donald Trump.

"Welcome aboard," Slobodan Trendic said. "As far as the value and the investments, obviously it's a question of conflict of interest. Mr. Trump is dealing with the same [thing] at a slightly larger scale, but I welcome the initiative."

According to Parks, a further discussion on fiber would not be part of the regular board meeting Friday. Still, he said Ocean Pines should not focus "just on the police department" in terms of fiber.

"The idea here is that's sort of the initial circumstance that came up to stimulate these conversations, but [its] clearly not the only thing."

Resident Joe Reynolds added a final note of concern, which abruptly ended the conversation.

If former General Manager Bob Thompson had brought a similar proposal to the table, he said, "I think there would have been the weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth like you have never heard out of Ocean Pines before."

"Let me say it, I think this is a wonderful idea," he said. "[But] I think if Brett Hill wants to do it I think Brett Hill ought to resign from the board of directors and his position as general manager."

Ocean Pines names new marketing director, Sawyer

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) Newly hired Ocean Pines Association Marketing Director Denise Sawyer promises a younger, hipper approach to promoting the community.

Sawyer, 28, was born in Miami and went to school in Washington, D.C. While still in college, she worked as a television production assistant for the Hearst media group, which led to an interview – and eventually a job – in front of the camera with WBOC just a week after graduation.

About a year and a half later she joined the new NBC affiliate in Rehoboth, where she worked for about three years.

She said she heard about the job in Ocean Pines online last month after then Marketing Director Teresa Travatello announced she would be leaving.

"I wanted something that would allow me to really get into the community and get to know people, and not just in a quick, deadline-driven basis," Sawyer said. "I wanted to really get out there and build a rapport and build relationships with the people that I call neighbors."

Sawyer, who has lived in Berlin for about four years, said she's familiar with Ocean Pines.

"I've gone to a number of weddings at the yacht club, I've gone to their Monday Night Football games [at the club] and trivia night, and I have a number of friends who live there, so I spend a lot of time in Ocean Pines," she said. "It's just natural for me to eventually work in Ocean Pines. I was excited about it because it was familiar territory.'

She will not miss being in front of the camera, she said.

"I'll be behind the scenes," she said. "What I'm hoping to do is get more engagement from our residents - to keep them in the know in very intriguing and hip and compelling ways.'

Hip, in Ocean Pines?

"Yeah!" Sawyer said. "You would think that it's a retirement community, but there are a lot of folks who are my age and who are renters and who are first-time homeowners, and we want to appeal to them. We want to make sure they know that they live in a great community. And we want to do that with video, photos, memes, gifs - keep them up to date with what's going on.

While Travatello often did double duty as an information technology helper, Sawyer will likely focus on the marketing side. In part, that's because the association also hired an IT professional, Paul Fazzalaro.

"It's my job to basically hone in on the image of Ocean Pines and the amenities that are inclusive, and let folks know who live within Ocean Pines and those who don't live within Ocean Pines what's available," she said. "It's my goal to market the area with the hopes of folks either moving there or extending their stay or just feeling in the know."

She sat through her first Ocean Pines meeting on Monday, a more than threehour work session in the community center with discussions that ranged from improvements to the country club and purchase orders for new playground equipment, to talks on dissolving a committee because of rampant bullying and calls for a high-ranking official to resign because of a conflict of interest.

"As a reporter. I've sat in filibusters, so that was a cakewalk," Sawyer said. "It was quite entertaining. It was nice to break the ice and just get to the hot-button issues, and to get to know the personalities and the people and the residents that really care about their community.'

Interim General Manager Brett Hill introduced Sawyer and Fazzalaro during the meeting on Monday, widely praising both.

Hill said the IT position had been open for about four years. Fazzalaro comes from Tennessee and has family in West Ocean City.

"I think he brings a very valuable skillset that's really going to be a great asset to us," Hill said.

He added that Julie Malinowski, formerly a part-time assistant, would take on a larger role in the marketing department and assist Sawyer.

"[Sawyer] has a very strong background in media and public relations and I think will be a great new face for Ocean Pines and to help move our image and our marketing forward," Hill said.

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JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

New Ocean Pines Association Marketing Director Denise Sawyer plans to bring her experience as a print and television journalist to the community, where she promises a younger, hipper approach to promotions.



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Sewell sentenced to three years probation, \$1,000 fine

SEWELL continued

Elsewhere in Pocomoke, officers Tonya Barnes and Damien McGlotten were clearing a noise complaint when the 911 call came in.

In 2014, Sewell, as part of his management strategy, divided the town into two sectors, north and south. Barnes and McGlotten were assigned to different sectors, and Barnes was the lead officer on the noise complaint.

Matthews' accident was in Barnes' sector, McGlotten testified, but she hadn't yet cleared the noise complaint, and thus McGlotten was assigned by dispatch.

Matthews told the court that once he exited his damaged vehicle he was shocked by what he found. He said he called Pocomoke City Police Lt. Lynell Green, whom he knew through the Masonic Lodge.

Sewell testified he had worked his normal 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. shift that day, but because of the holiday season and some reports that illicit drug sales were taking place at the Wal-Mart parking lot at night, had decided to stake out the lot that evening in plain clothes.

When Green received the call from Matthews, he called Sewell. Sewell and Green called each other several times before either was present at the scene of the accident, or at Matthews' home.

A short time later, McGlotten was notified via radio that Matthews, and his damaged vehicle, had been located.

Sewell testified because of the phone calls from Green and radio chatter he was hearing related to the incident, he left the parking lot to handle the matter personally.

Sewell said he first went to the site of the crash, and finding no one injured, left for Matthews' house.

According to testimony, when the chief arrived, Green, McGlotten, Barnes and another officer were already present. That officer, who located the vehicle, had already broadcast on the police radio that alcohol was not a factor, and that Matthews didn't call 911 because he was scared.

Both Barnes and McGlotten testified that the presence of Green and Sewell was unusual for this type of incident. McGlotten said it appeared to him to be a routine call, something he would see about once per week.

This is where the stories begin to diverge.

Barnes said when the chief arrived he asked several times who the investigating officer was. Even though she had done no investigating at that point, Barnes, citing the sector assignments, said it was she.

McGlotten said much the same thing on the stand, though he described giving the chief a rundown of the work he'd already put into examining the case. However, during cross-examination, it was revealed this account differed somewhat from his previous account of the evening, given to state investigators — not representatives for the defense which said Barnes had volunteered to be responsible for the call.

Sewell's testimony agreed with the account delivered by McGlotten to the prosecution's investigators.

Barnes testified she attempted to continue the investigation at the second scene by interviewing Matthews directly, but said Sewell interfered in that process.

At this point, McGlotten's shift was over, he was released from further duty by the other officers and left.

Barnes said she entered the Matthews' residence and found Sewell inside. She said she asked Matthews if he had been drinking, to which Sewell responded he hadn't. Barnes said Matthews repeated what Sewell had said. Barnes said she asked Matthews why he hadn't reported the call to 911. She said Sewell answered for Matthews a second time, and then Matthews repeated what he said again.

Sewell said he had talked to Matthews, discovered no odor of alcohol on his breath, his clothing wasn't disheveled and made the determination alcohol or other intoxicants weren't a factor in the crash.

Sewell also said the scene inside the Matthews' home never happened.

Matthews was not questioned by either party about what had happened in his home. He testified he fell asleep at the wheel, and was as shocked as anyone when he exited the vehicle to find the wheel missing, after making two turns to complete his journey home.

Barnes said the chief told her to write up the incident as an accident, not a hit and run, because the damaged vehicles were unoccupied at the time of the crash, no one was injured and Matthews reported the crash to the police — Lt. Green.

Barnes, an officer with seven years experience in Baltimore City but still a new hire on probation in Pocomoke City, said she felt compelled to write the report that way though it was against her better judgment. She testified she felt she was obeying an order from her supervisor in writing the report in that fashion.

Barnes continued her service in the Pocomoke City Police Department for another year before leaving. She is currently an officer at Morgan State University in Baltimore.

Barnes' report was approved by Lt. Green.

Matthews was not charged with any crimes, nor was he issued a See GREEN Page 9

What a racquet: Ocean Pines advisory committee dissolved

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) Members of the Ocean Pines Association Racquet Sports Committee apparently are not getting along.

During a public work session on Monday, Board President Tom Herrick said a recent request for advice from committee Chairwoman June Freeman 'spiraled out of control, which subsequently led to personal attacks [and] verbal abuse."

"I'm not happy with this conduct," he said. "I don't think it serves the committees well nor does it serve the community well."

Herrick said part of the problem is that the committee was tasked with issues related to "three distinct and separate racquet sports each with different needs and interest." That is, tennis, platform tennis and pickleball.

"It does not produce a climate conducive to good sport camaraderie ... but produces inner turmoil and unrest, which hinders the core function of the committee.'

He added that six members of the committee have resigned since it was formed two years ago.

"I believe that each sport should be able to address their own needs on an individual basis, which they have a

current system setup through their own board of directors, which served each sport very well in the past, very successfully," Herrick said. "My recommendation is to dissolve the [racquet sports] committee and allow each separate racquet sports to individually address their needs, wants and recommendations directly to help their own respective sport."

Herrick said the committee members had difficulty finding "one voice" that served all three sports simultaneously. Moreover, he said he "couldn't subject a volunteer to such abuse," referring to the chair.

During a committee meeting in which Herrick was acting as board liaison, he said Freeman presented an idea she felt "would be helpful to the operation and the entire community.'

"Because it didn't fit in one other racquet sport that person was chastised, blasted at the meeting [and] told to resign," he said. "They wanted to impeach the chair, right there, and in further discussion they ignored her completely.

"Personally, I couldn't tolerate it any longer and I suspended their activity until we can have this discussion," he said. "I don't think it's fair to the individuals that want to do well for their particular sport and I don't think it re-See PINES Page 10

Green will face same charges as Sewell, Dec. 19

Page 9

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THE GATHERING

Continued from Page 8 ticket related to the incident.

Conrad said her family was reimbursed by her insurance company for the damage to the vehicles, and was told her insurance would "go after" Matthews' insurance, but they still suffered some out-of-pocket expenses.

Sewell was charged with misconduct in office, and conspiracy to conduct misconduct in office with Green. The trial for Green, who faces the same charges, has been scheduled for Dec. 19.

Sewell, Green and another former Pocomoke City Police Officer are currently suing the town, state, county and others for Title VII violations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to which the U.S. Department of Justice has successfully joined. This case was not mentioned during the proceedings.



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Pines committee members compared to kindergarteners

Continued from Page 9

flects well on the committee to allow that to continue in that manner."

Interim General Manager Brett Hill said, in his experience, the level of interaction between that committee and association staff "has been way out of bounds, over the top compared to any other committee."

He said a proposed Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Center expansion had "reared its ugly head" during three different staff meetings.

"The committee was having multiple staff members on different paths to try and resurface part of that project [and] I had two \$250,000 proposals that got thrown on me," he said. "All of them want a lot and can't be satisfied. If one gets something and the other doesn't, it's like we're back into preschool."

Director Cheryl Jacobs wondered if there was not a more unifying solution.

"In the words of Rodney King, can't we all just get along?" she said. "We have to disband a committee because people can't act like adults and show respect for one another? I mean, it's ridiculous."

Jacobs said she was concerned that dissolving the committee would only exacerbate the apparent division between members of each sport.

"I just have a concern that we're fracturing as opposed to working together," she said. "I just see fracturing a process to accommodate people's bad behavior."

Not so, according to Herrick, who said representatives from each committee told him they would be "fully willing to get along" during a mutual racquet sports function, such as an open house.

"For the separate needs and interest of each individual sport, they will be better represented by being able to come to the board and staff on their own, requesting what they need individually," he said.

A vote on a formal motion to dissolve the committee is expected during a public board meeting at the community center on Friday at 10 a.m.



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPA Director Cheryl Jacobs, during a discussion about dissolving the Racquet Sports Committee on Monday, presses for another option asking, "can't we all just get along?"



Bayside Gazette

'We ought to decide what

we're doing to the whole thing.

stages that's one thing, but ...

we ought to be making a

decision about whatever

options we're picking for the

whole facility.

Cheryl Jacobs

Friday OPA meeting should be busy

Country club remodel and change orders for bridges likely to come up for votes

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) The future of the Ocean Pines Association Country Club could come to a vote during a public meeting on Friday.

During an informal work session this week, talks of a partial renovation of the Tern Grill inside the club turned instead to the major renovation proposed by interim General Manager Brett Hill last month.

Hill had asked the board to consider part of that, an estimated \$50,000 to refurbish and redesign the Tern Grill on the first floor, on Monday. Work on that part of the project would need to start soon, he said, if it were to be finished when golf bookings are expected to pick back up in spring.

Other parts of the overhaul, including improvements to the men's and women's restrooms on the first floor, could be discussed during the next board meeting, in January, and also be finished in time for the start of the new golf season.

The entire proposed renovation includes replacing the roof and HVAC systems, creating additional meeting spaces upstairs and adding an out-

A Unique Local

410-208-4438

door deck and additional restaurant space on the second floor.

Total estimates provided in November were about \$850,000, spread out over two years. That could be reduced slightly, however, as Hill said this week the outdated HVAC system could be replaced with smaller, more efficient and more easily replaceable split-level systems, costing about

\$2,000 each. "It just doesn't make sense that we're doing this sort of in a vacuum," Director Cheryl Jacobs said. "We ought to decide what we're doing to the whole thing. If we want to work through it in stages that's one thing, but ... we ought to be making

a decision about whatever options we're picking for the whole facility."

Picking certain segments of the renovation out of the larger picture, Jacobs suggested, could change what could and could not be done in other areas.

That's all well and good, Hill said, but that decision would need to be made soon.

'We have a board meeting on Friday and our next board meeting is Jan. 25. If we don't have a consensus of approval for us to start something we're losing the entire month of January to be able to do work," he said. "We really have January and February [as] our times when we have the least impact with [golf] operations if we're making a change.'

He said he would bring two requests for the Friday meeting, one for the approval of the entire project and

a second to start renovations of the Tern Grill.

Hill added Golf Director John Mali-If we want to work through it in nowski and Facilities Manager Jerry Aveta would attend to answer any questions about the project.

Also likely to appear on the agenda during the meeting,

Friday in the community center at 10 a.m., are a proposed change order related to repairs of two bridges in Ocean Pines, and a new vehicle purchase request for public works.

Two items that could be moved to the January board meeting are a request for purchase of new playground equipment for the Manklin Meadows complex and a first reading on revisions on elections procedures, presented by the Ocean Pines Association **Elections** Committee.



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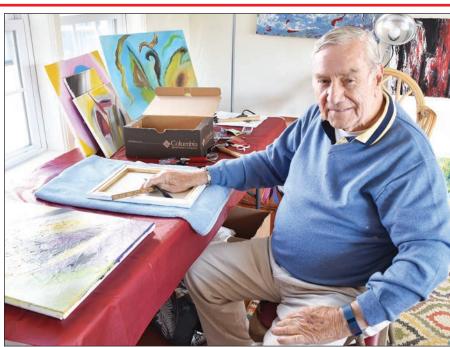
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Snapshots



ARTISTS HOLIDAY STUDIO TOUR Brian Robertson of Berlin Printery and Caroline Forrester of CFD Fine Jewelry greet guests at their shared space during the Berlin Artists Holiday Studio Tour, Saturday.



INSIDE THE WORKSHOP Painter Don Grafer exhibits his abstract expressionist work at the Worcester County Arts Council during the first Berlin Artists Holiday Studio Tour, Saturday.



NEW SPACE, MORE BOOKS

Salt Water Media Owner Stephanie Fowler shows off an expanded local authors section at the shop during the Artists Holiday Studio Tour in Berlin on Saturday.



SWEET OPENING

SWEET OPEINING Owner Mark Schramek officially opens the Olde Town Candy Company in downtown Snow Hill last Friday. Pictured, from left, are Worcester County Economic Development Director Merry Mears, Snow Hill Councilwoman Jenny Hall, Mayor Charlie Dorman, Councilman Mike Pruitt, Morgan Schramek, Taylor Bank As-

sistant Vice President Lee Chisholm, Store Manager Melissa Weidner and Schramek.



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BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Snow Hill High School chorus toured the downtown area singing Christmas carols for the gathered crowds last Friday. Here, they are inside the new Olde Town Candy Company, singing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."



INAUGURAL SENIOR SEAHAWK WEEK

Stephen Decatur High School administrators, counselors and teachers launched a very successful Senior Seahawk Application Week that included college, career and military counseling, financial and FAFSA advice, writing center tutorials, and on-site college acceptances during the week of Oct. 31. Close to 300 seniors received the intensified services and 40 students earned on-site college acceptances from Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Wilmington University. Stephen Decatur High School senior Acacia Nichols receives her on-site Salisbury University acceptance from Principal Tom Zimmer, Sammy the Seagull and SU admissions representative Charles Overholt, right, during the inaugural Senior Seahawk Application Week.



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Meals for the Hungry drive deemed successful

Estimated 400 people fed by artists, church, business volunteers during campaign

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) About two dozen volunteers fed hundreds of people during the first Artists Giving Back: Meals for the Hungry drive at St. Paul United Methodist Church on Flower Street last Tuesday.

Developed by the Berlin Arts & Entertainment Committee, Meals for the Hungry was meant to be both a straightforward attempt to feed those who were struggling, and part of a larger outreach to a segment of the community that often feels left out by those on the other side of Route 113.

"It was an incredible success," Robin Tomaselli, committee mem-



Mon-Sat 9-5 • Sun 10-4

ber, said. "We figured we served between eat-in, carryout and delivery, more than 260 people."

Additional food was taken to Diakonia, where another 100 were served people, Tomaselli estimated.

Food for Meals for the Hungry was donated by Berlin shops and restaurants, while volunteers, including many members of the committee and the church, helped cook and serve the food.

Girls from the SAGES program at Worcester Youth and Family, members of the Berlin Police Department and several local business owners also lent a hand.

"It was spectacular. There were young people, old people, all races, different church affiliations - it was iust an absolute perfect day, Tomaselli said. "It was a wonderful experience all around [and] I think everybody felt that way. Every business owner and the artists that participated went above and beyond, and it was amazing.'

It was also somewhat "enlightening," she said. "A lot of us live in our own little

world, and we're all really busy and it's hard to imagine there are people that are already here – not even in our backvard, but in our front vard that are hungry and in need of companionship," Tomaselli said. "For me, and I think everybody that was there,

New Patients

it proved that when we all come together and work together anything is possible."

Tomaselli said artist Patrick Henry helped facilitate Meals for the Hungry, asking his church to allow the committee to use the space and volunteering his own time. Many members of his congregation also pitched in.

'It's hard to imagine there are people that are already ... in our front yard that are hungry and in need of companionship.' Robin Tomaselli

"The volunteers from their church alone set up the hall and the men's ministry baked and carved 14 turkeys, six hams and I cannot even tell you how many pounds of greens,' Tomaselli said. "The day before they were at that church helping set up, working into the night, and then the next day they were back there doing the same thing and working into the night again.

'There was a woman towards the end that came up to me and said 'this is one of the best days, for me. To see people at our church that own businesses across 113 and we're all here in fellowship, this is a great day for all of us," Tomaselli added. "I said, 'I feel exactly the same way.'

Henry helped carve those 14 turkeys and admitted the amount of work was more substantial than he initially thought. He said volunteers finished preparations at about 8:30 on Monday night, and then started up again first thing Tuesday morning.

Still, he said no one complained.

"It was just such high spirits that's the best way I can describe it," Henry said. "The volunteers and the people that got fed – it hit everyone. There was just a whole sense of gratitude that was awesome."

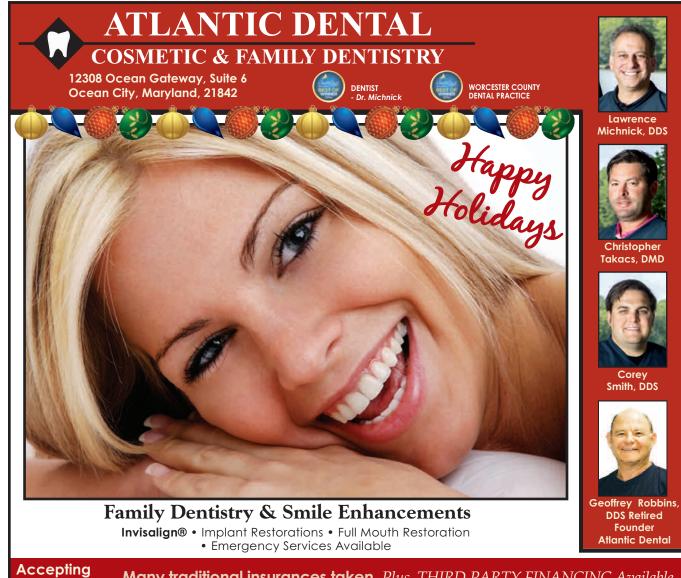
Already, he said he's spoken to three different groups that want to host similar functions next year.

As for the larger conversation involved, Tomaselli said there was progress to that affect.

The committee had hoped to start a movement to raise funds and awareness for the dilapidated multipurpose building on Flower Street. The Berlin Community Improvement Association oversees the building.

"There has been a lot of conversation created," Tomaselli said. "We are still waiting to have a meeting with the members of the BCIA. We have reached out to them and it's a just matter of organizing it."

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Bayside Gazette

Pocomoke approves voting rules changes

By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Dec. 8, 2016) The Pocomoke City Council unanimously approved on second reading amendments to the town charter altering language related to the conduct of elections at its

meeting on Monday. During it's meeting on Nov. 21, the council approved on first reading the following changes to election proce-

Business Briefs

Becker Morgan ranked

Becker Morgan Group ranked No. 195 among the 2016 Top 300 Architecture Firms nationwide in Architectural Record Magazine, the No. 1 source for architecture news in the nation.

The firm also received recognition in Engineering News-Record (ENR) as a 2016 MidAtlantic Top Design Firm and by Building + Design Construction magazine on the Giants 300 list of the Top Architecture/Engineering Firms.

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dures: requiring future elections to use paper ballots, restricting citizens from organizing write-in candidates for public office, adding two alternate positions on the board of elections and revising provisions to address tie votes and election certification.

The last change was made in response to the recent contested election between council incumbent George Tasker and Sheila Nelson, when a "mechanical error" with voting machines caused 127 votes to counted, while election records showed 132 people cast ballots. That eventually lead to another election being held at the end of May with Tasker garnering 98 votes to Nelson's 91.

Under the new regulations, settling a tie vote will involve luck of the draw. "We get a brand new deck of cards that has never been opened, shuffle them and then it's select a card," said Mayor Bruce Morrison.

Councilmember George Tasker said this year Maryland passed a law requiring each jurisdiction to have a tie-breaking procedure in place.

"Coin tosses or card draws are used across the country in thousands of jurisdictions," he said.

offices in Delaware, Maryland, and North Carolina. For more information, visit www.beckermorgan.com.

Ribbon cutting

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Coastal Early Learning Center on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 4:30 p.m.

An Open House is also scheduled for that day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Coastal Early Learning Center is located at 9729 Seahawk Rd. in Berlin.

All Worcester County business people (employers and employees) are invited to attend and take part in the ribbon cutting.

For more information, contact the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce at 410-641-5306.

New bank branch

Raymond M. Thompson, president and chief executive officer of Calvin B. Taylor Bank, has announced that the bank has received final regulatory approvals to establish its 11th branch, and has purchased a pre-existing bank building on the island of Chincoteague, Virginia at 4116 Main Street. The Chincoteague branch will be the bank's first to be located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Building modifications and renovations have been contracted to Gillis Gilkerson Contractors of Salisbury. Completion of renovations is estimated to be end of first quarter of 2017.

Calvin B. Taylor Banking Company, the bank subsidiary of Calvin B. Taylor Bankshares, Inc. (OTCQX: TYCB), founded in 1890, offers a wide range of loan, deposit, and ancillary banking services through 10 offices located in Worcester County in Maryland and lower Sussex County in Delaware.



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Snow Hill model train display back open for holidays

By Brian Gilliland

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) In the main showroom of the Pocomoke River Canoe Company, there is an easy-to-miss steep staircase that transports visitors to a different time, and a different place — almost.

Clearly patterned on Snow Hill, but based on a more industrial take on the town, the Corddry Company Crossing reimagines the county seat as a bustling shipping hub, one supporting about a dozen different track loops moving all manner of goods from place to place.

Snow Hill, in Corddry country — named for a family that used to own several properties near the canoe company — also has a couple of things the town would appear to have based on the name, but doesn't: hills. This is, of course, an aesthetic decision because model trains are barely model trains without a tunnel or two to send the iron horse chugging through.

The company was built by a group of hobbyists working over several years — at least 15, recalls canoe company owner and model train enthusiast Barry Laws.

"We started with two tracks going all the way around," the upstairs of the canoe company, Laws said. "Then we added the river."

More details emerged over the years. Sometimes the additions were small — this year's offering in a trolley track. Sometimes more elaborate changes are made. What has emerged is a bustling town complete with residential and industrial areas, a roundhouse for manipulating the engines, bridges, utilities and shopping areas in miniature.

It even has weather — the press of a button will summon rolling thunder, and another button will trigger a light-up lightning bolt on the painted mural storm squall in the background.

"Putting it all together, there are hundreds of man hours up here," Laws said. "Not many have the space we do and I just enjoy it, the kids enjoy it and it gives everyone something else to do at Christmas."

The Corddry Company Crossing is only open to the public during the winter months, and is open on weekends during December between 1 pm. and 4 p.m. There is no cost to visit, but there is a donation box near the display.

The company will not be on display on Christmas Day, but will be open on New Year's Eve and Day.

Special arrangements can be made for a private gathering by calling (410) 632-3971.

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baysideoc.com



An engine makes another loop of the Corddry Company Crossing above the Pocomoke River Canoe Company in downtown Snow Hill. The train display is open on weekends, from 1-4 p.m., and is free to the public.





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This winter, assistance for high electric bills

Matching funds provided by Town of Berlin to Md. prog. run regionally by ShoreUp!

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) Help is available for Maryland residents struggling to pay home electric bills this winter through the Maryland Department of Human Resources' Office of Home Energy Programs.

Income eligibility limits start at \$20,790 for a single person. A family of four, for instance, can make up to \$42,525 annually and still qualify for assistance.

Locally, the program is managed by ShoreUp! Inc., and in Berlin it has been in place since 2009 with a unique twist – the town sends a letter inside regular electric bills once a year asking for donations and providing matching funds.

"The program is designed to help people that are struggling with their bills, so ShoreUp! takes applications and reviews them, and the makes the determination with regards to how much individuals receive," Town Administrator Laura Allen said.

While the program runs statewide, Allen said she was not aware of another instance in which a town that operates a private utility offered matching funds to help pay for electric bills.

"From my limited understanding, it is unique that a town would be in a position to match," she said.

Mayor Gee Williams said there's an obvious benefit to having an outside group like ShoreUp! operate the Energy Assistance Program.

"They've been doing it for years and they have the expertise, and they also have the records so that there's not duplication," he said.

He remembers the program coming before the mayor and council during his first term in office, nearly a decade ago.

"Despite the fact that there was a state program in place, it came to our attention because we have an electric utility," he said. "Some folks in customer service let us know that we had some customers who had some unpaid balances and they knew they were hardship cases. So we tried to come up with something where we didn't make the decision as to who would qualify, but that we would outreach to the community and pledge – and have continued to each year – dollar for dollar on a matching basis the donations that we receive from the public, up to \$10,000 [annually].

"I've been very pleased and grateful for the support the program has received each and every year," Williams continued. "It appears to be gradually growing, which is just what you would hope for. Unfortunately, I don't see the need going away anytime soon, but it's appropriate for the community to extend a hand to those people who [need help]."

He added that he hoped the program would become a "permanent part of our community's culture."

"Nobody is solicited in any way – it's purely a voluntary effort – and I think it speaks well of the character See ENERGY Page 19





RACE FOR EDUCATION

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Students and faculty from Seaside Christian Academy gather for a group photo to celebrate their annual Race for Education at Northside Park on 125th Street in Ocean City, Oct. 7. Friends and families of SCA had a day filled with food, fun games and fellowship.

Energy Assistance Program collection runs through Dec.

Continued from Page 18

of the community that such a program has become sustainable through one single solicitation a year by letter so that no one is put on the spot. I'm very grateful – but not surprised – that there's so many generous and caring people in our little town," Williams said.

In Berlin, money for the program will be collected through the end of the month.

For more information or to apply for assistance, visit www.dhr.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs or www.shoreup.org/easternshore-md-services-programs/Energy-Assistance-and-Family-Support-Programs.





Can't serve two masters

If nothing else, the Ocean Pines Board of Directors' consideration of a fiber optics infrastructure project that would involve Director Brett Hill's company is awkward.

No matter how much the Ocean Pines Association and others might want blazing-fast Internet connectivity, no matter how much it might cost Hill's company, FTS Fiber, to do the job, or how much the company might earn from it over the years, the suspicion would linger that insider dealing played a part.

FTS wants the directors to grant it easements that would allow the company to install a fiber optics network system that would, in turn, be leased to a communications provider.

That's fine, but blazing-fast Internet access and gigabit download speed aren't the issues. The difficulty is that Hill is not just a director, but also is the association's interim general manager.

As both, he is the insider's insider, who, whether or not he recuses himself from board discussions, could still guide his company's proposal with information not necessarily available to possible competitors.

It is often the case in small communities that an official's business interests become uncomfortably linked to his or her civic responsibilities and every effort has to be made to ensure the public that the possibility of personal gain is not lurking somewhere behind the scenes.

To be clear, no one is accusing anyone of anything at this point and no one wants that current awkwardness to grow into something more. With that in mind, the board and Hill should bear in mind what Supreme Court Justice Harlan Stone said more than 80 years ago in an address regarding the need to keep business interests separate from the responsibilities of public service: "a man can't serve two masters."

That's why Hill must decide which of his two interests he will be serving before the fiber optic discussion resumes, if it resumes at all.

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Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to

editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

Do you remember which receptionist you spoke to on the phone?

Letters

The fracking issue

Editor.

I don't want to take the time to write another letter, but I am compelled when I read such ridiculous nonsense.

I am referring to an article or advertisement in [another local publication] on Nov. 25. It was entitled: "My Nature Presents." The author came out with all the typical "sky is falling" dangers of fracking and, in essence, is telling us to change our diet or the planet will suffer.

Once again, a liberal telling us to reduce our standard of living. The article states that fracking increases seismic activity, pollutes air, water and soil. The author is fearful that Maryland may start fracking in its western counties and emulate the fantastic success being enjoyed by neighboring Pennsylvania.

He or she doesn't realize that the money saved by cheap gasoline is because of fracking. (Done on private lands, Obama closed federal lands to fracking). Fracking indirectly gave him or her more money to spend on Christmas then on the gas tank. What is so strange about this piece is that the

main point is to get us to grow hemp, but weaves that commercial starting with an alarming, inaccurate, hit on fracking and then moves onto our diet. This is really a whack-job piece.

Here is a sample of what was said: "what we currently decide to eat creates more global warming than all the cars, trains, planes, buses and trucks in the world combined.'

No studies sited, just this alarming blanket statement. Also, "future generations will unearth our oil-producing artifacts and marvel at how primitive their ancestors were." (No, I say that future generations will look at us and ask how we could legally kill - painfully - unborn babies. How do we look back at slavery now? But I digress or do I?)

The liberal progressives are always wrong. What happened to the scare of the 60s about world population as illustrated in the book "The Population Bomb" by Paul Ehrlich warning of mass starvation in the 70s and 80s? What about the global cooling scare of the 70s that made cover story in Time magazine? We were all going to freeze.

That same decade the liberal environmental wacko extremists said we are running out of petroleum. With our sophisticated drilling techniques we are capable of mining at least 200 years worth coupled with less use because of natural gas from fracking. How about the ozone hole scare of the 80s? As soon as they outlawed the cheap and very efficient Freon, you didn't hear a peep out of them.

In the 90s they started with the global warming farce that will flood NYC and all coastal towns. I have lived on waterfront property for 34 years and have not seen a one-inch sea level rise. As a matter of fact, I own an airboat because there is so little water. And now in 2016 we have the general, catchall scare phrase, "climate change." It was changed from "global warming" to "climate change" due to the hacking of the East Anglia emails that admitted that global warming was a hoax.

Let's pray that Maryland does reap the many wonderful benefits of natural gas production thereby reducing and, under this new administration, illuminating our dependence on those radical countries that want to kill us all.

> Dennis W. Evans Berlin

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Letters

Sixth annual Wild and Scenic Festival successful

Editor,

The community really stepped up on Nov. 17 to protect clean water and healthy communities, for the sixth annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival hosted by Assateague Coastal Trust.

We could not have brought this fun, affordable, inspiring evening to Morley Hall at Seacrets without the amazing support of our local sponsors, and we'd like to encourage the local community to support these fine businesses during the holiday season.

Thank you so very much to our event sponsors: the great crew at Seacrets and Ocean 98 radio; as well as OC Wasabi, South Moon Under,

the Maryland Coast Dispatch, and Seaside Plumbing. Thank you also to our wonderful silent auction donors: A Perfect Face, Anthony's Beer Wine & Deli, Atlantic Hotel, (artist) Patti Backer, Baked Dessert Café, Bleached Butterfly, Blacksmith, Burley Oak, Delmarva Boardsports, Dolle's, Gilberts Provisions, Go Organic Grocer, Harrison Group, K-Coast Surf Shop, (artist) Lynne Lockhard, Longridge Gardens, (artist) Kirk McBride, Nest, (artist) Fred Peterson, Plak That, Pocomoke Canoe Company, Raggamuffin, Sea La Vie, Siculi, Super Fun Kayak, The Globe, The Iron Horse, The Shark/Culture, Uncle John Soap, Urban Nector, Joe & Lisa Inzerillo, Victorian Charm, West O Bottle

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Steve Farr, Development Director Assateague Coastal Trust, Inc.

Thanking sponsors of Berlin Christmas parade Editor,

The Town of Berlin and Berlin Main Street wishes to thank the following businesses for their donations towards the 46th annual Berlin Christmas parade, held Dec. 1.

Pitt Stop Beer and Wine LLC, Day's Aluminum, Worcester Preparatory School, Dr. Gerald Ott, Healing Hands, Diversified Maintenance, Custom Mechanical, Bundles of Joy University, Bleached Butterfly, Francis Scott Key Family Resort, Purnell Inc., Taylor Bank, Esham Family Partnership, Shirley Grace Pregnancy Center, Una Bella Salute, Carey Insurance and Financial Services, Doodle Design, The Adkins Company, Hunan Chinese Restaurant, Berlin Shoe Box, Burbage Funeral Home, Atlantic Orthopedic, Bunting Realty, Worcester County Developmental Center, Evergreen Lodge #153, Gary's Shore Service, Berlin Optical, Stevenson United Methodist Church, World of Toys, First Shore Federal, Poole Contracting & Consulting, Action Island and State Farm Insurance.

Many thanks and wishing you a happy holiday season.

Sharon Timmons Administrative Assistant Economic Development Town of Berlin

MCBP hosts seal steward volunteer training

(Dec. 8, 2016) Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) is currently recruiting and hosting a volunteer training for seal stewards on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 5 p.m. at the Ocean City Library on 100th Street.

National Aquarium's Marine Animal Stranding Coordinator Jen Dittmar will conduct the training. This volunteer opportunity is an "on call" opportunity. When a seal hauls out, seal stewards will be contacted to see if they are available to man the haul out area to make sure beach and dog walkers keep a safe distance to protect both the walkers and the seal.

Educational material and information will be provided at each haul out so that stewards can inform interested on-lookers. Contact Sandi Smith at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or by calling her at 410-213-2297 ext. 106 if planning to attend the training.

MCBP and the National Aquarium Marine Animal Rescue Program (MARP) partnered three years ago to launch an outreach program on responsible seal viewing and sighting reporting. Out of this partnership developed the seal steward program as Ocean City has been experiencing a significant increase in seal sightings.

If encountering a seal on the beach this winter, call MARP's direct line at 410-576-3880 or 1-800-628-9944 and register the sighting on the MCBP website – mdcoastallbays.org – so a trained observer can evaluate the condition of the seal to determine if it's in distress.



After seven years, Berlin shop to cut ribbon

Bungalow Love, Sheppard Realty grand openings to be part of Dec. 2nd Friday

By Josh Davis

Associate Editor

(Dec. 8, 2016) After seven years in business, Berlin shop Bungalow Love will do something it's never done before - celebrate a proper grand opening.

During the town's 2nd Friday art stroll at the end of this week, the store will finally hold a ribbon cutting and open house

Owner Heather Layton said the business began with a successful show at the Globe during Holiday Arts Night in Berlin, where she and her sister were featured.

At the same time, she said, a former custom-frame shop on Williams Street had gone out of business and became available when the owner retired. Layton saw a "for rent" sign with a phone number in the window, made a call and set up a meeting to see the building.

It was apparently a short meeting. "I went in and I was just like,





'yes.' The price was right and it wasn't too, too scary," Layton said. "But when I first opened I was so empty – I just had my jewelry and a couple pieces of furniture I'd redone, and the handbags that my sister made. That's how it started.'

Layton signed a one-year lease.

"Within the first month of being open, I had made three-months' rent. That's when I thought, maybe I had made the right decision," Layton said. "I was just shocked. Not only the locals, but lots of people were just stopping in. Luckily I was next to the public restrooms, which I always hated telling people, but it was a plus."

About a year and a half ago, Bungalow Love relocated to 9 South Main Street, adding more room not only for the items handmade by Layton and her sister, but also for scores of items made by other local artisans. The shop also carries vintage and Fair Trade goods, and offers do-it-yourself classes.

"I loved the old building and I adored that space, but it's nice having well over double the amount of space here and more opportunities,' Layton said. "There's a courtyard in the back now, so we have paint nights out back, and we have bachelorette parties and [build-your-on] terrarium parties and birthday parties. It's just nice to be able to expand.'

Layton said she never had a grand opening or a ribbon cutting for either location, instead favoring a "super-soft" opening for the new Main Street location, last March.

"Then I just stayed open," she said with a laugh. "On Friday we're doing a ribbon cutting at 6 p.m. Dana Helmuth is playing some live music for me and we'll have a chiminea out back for s'mores and just have an open-house style event."

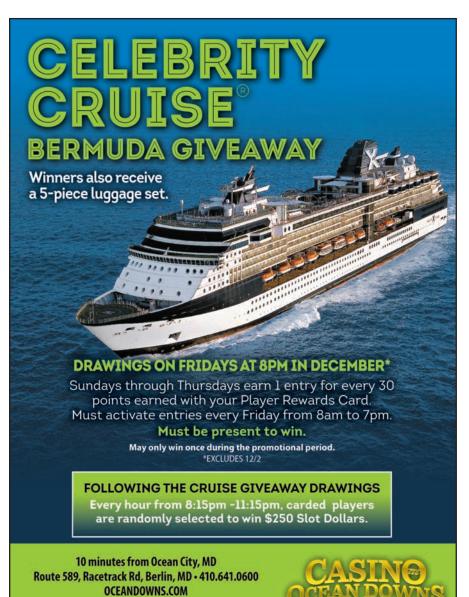
Sheppard Realty on 19 North Main Street, which never had formal fanfare when it opened a decade ago, will also have an open house on Friday. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held there at 7 p.m.

Additionally, a Holiday Maker's Market will be held inside the Visitor's Center on 14 South Main Street from 5-8 p.m.

"Several really great artisans are setting up and I believe we have live music as well," Layton said.

For more information on Bungalow Love, call 410-641-2781 or visit www.facebook.com/BungalowLove.

Berlin's 2nd Friday festivities will feature art displays in shops throughout the downtown area, along with sales and specials in area restaurants, from 5-8 p.m.



Visit our website for full promotional details. Must be 21 years of age . Please play responsibly, for help visit mdgamblinghelp.org or call 1-800-GAMBLER.

Where the Fun Shines!

Bayside Gazette

Page 23

Five Mile Branch Rd. Bridge closing for construction

(Dec. 8, 2016) Worcester County Public Works will implement plans to replace the Five Mile Branch Road Bridge, a three-span, timber-beam bridge located approximately 0.76 miles north of U.S. Route 113 and crossing Coonfoot Branch, beginning Monday, Dec. 5.

Access to this bridge will be closed and a detour will be in place throughout the course of the project. Detours are as follows: Intersection of Five Mile Branch Road & Maryland Route 113 north to Newark Road is approximately 2.4 miles and three minutes; Newark Road to Queponco Road is approximately 0.3 miles and 38 seconds; and Queponco Road to its intersection with Five Mile Branch Road is approximately 2.7 miles and 3 minutes 39 seconds.

The project is expected to take eight to 10 weeks to complete. For more information on detour routes, visit www.co.worcester.md.us.

Berlin schedules residential yard waste collection

(Dec. 8, 2016) The Town of Berlin's residential Fall Yard Waste Collection is scheduled for Dec. 14.

The Yard Waste Collection dates are based on Berlin residential garbage service. Residents are asked to follow the

guidelines listed below:

DO: Place leaves, grass clippings, pine needles and cones, and garden waste in a paper bag, plastic bag, or (maximum) 30-gallon container.

Cut brush into 4 feet lengths and bundles no larger than 18 inches in diameter.

DO NOT: Mix in stones, rocks, metal, or other inorganic matter, dirt, sod or other materials.





Berlin cheerleaders place fourth during nationals in Florida

By Kara Hallissey Staff Writer

(Dec. 8, 2016) The Berlin Pop Warner cheerleaders placed fourth overall during the national competition on Monday at Walt Disney World's Wide World of Sports, bringing home a national trophy for the first time since the program's inception.

"The girls did great and received a higher score than at regionals," Head Coach Jessie Parsons said. "It was a pretty long and hectic day, but we had no deductions. This is a big deal because it's really hard to not get one by bobbling or stepping over a line. They did their routine the best I have ever seen it done."

The trip has the girls excited to increase stunt difficulty in their routines and sharpen their other skills to return next year. A winter session of Pop Warner cheerleading will take place from January to July.

"We were up against three teams who had won the national championship before," Parsons said. "It was tough, but they were excited about getting a trophy. We also beat the top two teams in tumbling execution and it made the girls feel really good."

Monday morning was long for the Berlin cheerleaders when buses picked them up from the hotel at 6:30 a.m. Many had been awake for hours getting ready for the competition.

Tony Morris, president of the Berlin Pop Warner Association and a football

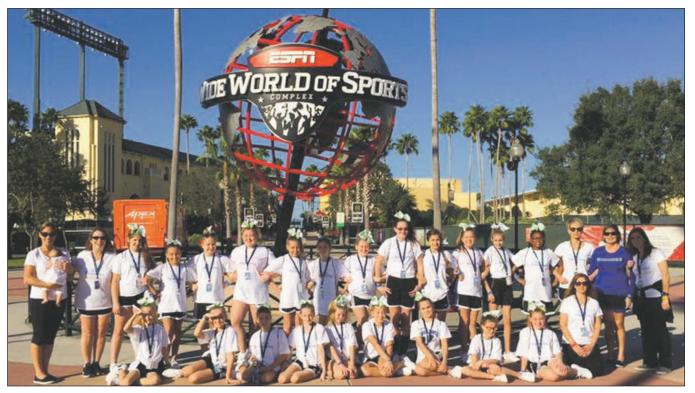


PHOTO COURTESY JESSIE PARSONS

The Berlin Pop Warner cheerleaders placed fourth overall during the national competition on Monday at Walt Disney World's Wide World of Sports, bringing home a national trophy for the first time since the program's inception.

coach, started a break-down chant to get the girls excited and Smarties candies were passed out about 20 minutes prior to their competition.

Before the awards ceremony began, each team participated in a parade by region and wore something to represent their hometowns.

One of the mothers made bows, which included the Maryland flag with a crab in the middle holding a can of Old Bay.

"We were the only team from Maryland there," Parsons said. "It was really special and all the kids had a lot of fun."

The girls also had practice T-shirts

with their new routine chant, "Faith, trust and pixie dust," on them, which played off Peter Pan, and wore matching Tinkerbell bows.

Many of the girls stayed in Disney World after the competition and Disney's Animal Kingdom shut down on Wednesday night from 8 p.m. to midnight for Pop Warner teams to enjoy allyou-can-eat food and unlimited rides.

The 21, level three peewee cheerleaders range in age from 9-13 years old. Most of the girls have been cheering together for a number of years, while six are new to the sport. The team advanced to nationals after coming in second place during the Eastern Regional competition on Nov. 6 in New Jersey. This was the group's second consecutive year competing at nationals.

Berlin Pop Warner is always accepting monetary donations for its football and cheer program. Donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to: Worcester County Youth Football P.O. Box 205 Berlin, Maryland, 21811.

For more information on the Worcester County Youth Football and Cheerleading Berlin Seahawks, call 443-783-8628 or visit www.BerlinSeahawks.com.

'Be a Santa to a Senior' program

Home Instead office, which represents three counties, to facilitate annual drive

(Dec. 8, 2016) The holidays are a time to celebrate the joy and warmth of the season with friends and family. In Berlin and Salisbury, the local Home Instead Senior Care office is inviting the community to celebrate with local seniors who may be alone during the holidays.

The Home Instead Senior Care office serving Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties is helping to facilitate Be a Santa to a Senior, a community program that provides gifts and companionship to seniors who may be isolated from friends or family during the holiday season. The program is made possible through the generous support of local businesses, nonprofit organizations, retailers, numerous volunteers and members of the community

"The holidays can be a troubling time for seniors. They may feel the absence or the distance of loved ones," Corrie Boger, co-owner of the Berlin Home Instead Senior Care office, said. "Be a Santa to a Senior provides a ray of hope for many seniors, and it means so much for them to know that people care and value them as members of our community."

The local Home Instead Senior Care office has partnered with several local organizations to help with gift collection and distribution, including the MAC Area Agency on Aging, Shore Up – Shady Pines Adult Medical Day Services, Worcester County Departments of Health and Social Services, Worcester County Commission on Aging, Coastal Hospice Compass Program, Berlin Nursing & Rehab and Fresenius Dialysis Center.

Holiday shoppers are invited to participate in Be a Santa to a Senior by picking up a paper ornament at a participating location, which will display Be a Santa to a Senior trees until Dec. 12 that are hung with ornaments featuring seniors' first names and their desired gifts. Holiday shoppers can choose an ornament and buy the requested gift.

Home Instead asks all participants to wrap and return the gifts back to the store with the ornament attached. Gifts will be distributed to Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset seniors beginning Dec. 14.

"Be a Santa to a Senior provides a much-needed boost for seniors who may be isolated, not just through gifts, but through interaction and companionship," Don Boger, co-owner of the Home Instead Senior Care office in Berlin, said. "We're so grateful to have a community that comes together to show our local seniors they are not alone during the holidays."

Be a Santa to a Senior trees can be found at the following locations:

• Greater Area Salisbury Chamber of Commerce, 144 E. Main Street, Salisbury

• Apple Discount Drugs, 404 A North Fruitland Boulevard, Salisbury

 Apple Discount Drugs, 1210 Nanticoke Road, Unit 11, Salisbury

• Apple Discount Drugs, 314 Franklin Avenue, Suite 600, Berlin

• Snow Hill Pharmacy, 5610 Market Street, Unit 2, Snow Hill

• The Ocean Pines Parks & Rec Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines

• Salisbury University Conference Planning Department, 1101 Camden Avenue, Commons Building, Room 200, Salisbury

• Wor-Wic Community College, CEWD Allied Health Division (Hazel Center), 32000 Campus Drive, Salisbury

For more information about the program, visit BeaSantatoaSenior.com or call 410-641-0901.

OPA residents encouraged to 'Light Up' Pines

(Dec. 8, 2016) Ocean Pines residents once again have the chance to show off their holiday decorating skills with the community's annual "Light up the Pines" outdoor display contest.

This year, Ocean Pines community members will get to vote for their favorites via an online ballot. A map showing the locations of the entries will also be available at OceanPines.org. Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place overall winners.

The deadline for applicants is Friday, Dec. 9. Participants will be notified when voting is to take place. Those new to the contest as well as previous contestants are encouraged to enter.

Residents interested in entering may do so by submitting a name, address and phone number by email to info@oceanpines.org, fax to 410-641-5581, phone to 410-641-7717 ext. 3014 or to the Ocean Pines Association in person or mail at 239 Ocean Pkwy., Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811.

For more information, contact the Ocean Pines Department of Marketing and Public Relations at 410-641-7717 ext. 3014 or info@oceanpines.org.

New Year's Celebration at Princess Royal Palmetto Ballroom

Gourmet Dinner Party

5 Course Dinner including 6 Hour Open Bar "Perfect Pair" Filet Mignon & Crab Cake • Assortment of Hot & Cold Hors d'oeuvre • Shrimp Cocktail Savory & Sweet Salad • Princess Potatoes • Chef's Vegetable Medley Classic Motown/R&B Band "Comfort Zone". Champagne Toast Party Favors & More.... Coat & Tie Attire Please!

> only **\$129** per person Excludes taxes, & service charges



COMFORT ZONE

New Year's Eve Dinner at Schooner's Restaurant

Special New Year's Menu Including 3 Course Dinner Served 5-9pm Drink Specials All Night Light Fare Menu After 9pm

signature only signature on the second secon

Atrium Stars Party

Bountiful Buffet Dinner Including 6 Hours Open Bar Baked Salmon • Roasted Eye Round Seafood Newburg • Breast of Chicken Supreme • Imported & Domestic Cheese & Fruit Platter • Crisp Crudite Tossed Salad w/ Dips & Dressings Rice Pilaf • Roasted Potatoes & Fresh Vegetables • Assorted Desserts Live Top 40 Band " Sir Rod", Champagne Toast, Party Favors & More... Upscale Casual Attire Please!



SIR ROD

only **\$109** per person Excludes taxes & service charges

Limited Sumber of Suites Available w/out the Party Some Restrictions Apply

For Reservations 1-800-4-ROYALE Oceanfront at 91st Street, Ocean City, Md

princessroyale.com



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Cuisine

'Dad, this tree won't fit in our back yard'

My father loved Christmas. There were times that we were grumpy (I guess I came by that naturally), but



Christmastime was the one part of the year when dad would light up and look forward to staying home and putting up the big tree.

By Paul Suplee. CEC PCIII

We lived outside of Annapolis, and I guess you could say that we were "that" family. While we

kept our jalopies inside the garage, we were always raising hell around and acting like little tyrants.

As an engineer, my dad did a lot of work on our house, and at one point he added a four-car garage to the house, turning the original garage into a family room with 13-foot ceilings. To finish off the room, a woodburning stove and massive ceiling fan were installed and many a good nights were had between heating up the room and throwing magazines into the fan which was turned on fullblast.

Yes, it was a fun room. Many stories were crafted there, and many a legend born. But among them all, I can honestly say that Christmas was one of the most memorable. My father would at times Clark Griswald the season's tree and take us out to the ends of the earth to chop down the finest evergreen moderate sums of money would buy.

We would come home with a 10-12 foot pine that somehow managed to get decorated from top to bottom. They were impressive trees, replete with some ornaments dating back to the turn of the century. Luckily, I have a few huge ornamental balls sans hooks that adorn a bowl in my house, and a century-old snowman ornament that is dangling from my own tree as we speak.

Decorating the tree was always a massive undertaking, and we would do everything possible to make sure that all of the kids were home, that any of the midshipmen that we sponsored at the Naval Academy had liberty and could join in and make it a daylong event.

And when these events would take place, mom would always fire up the one-dish meals and prepare for the legions of people that would be flooding our floor space for the day. Lasagna was one of those meals, as it was cheap, could be made in great abundance, and could be left out for the afternoon and into the evening



with relatively few concerns. Of course, now that I teach food safety I shudder to think of the goodies that were growing by the time evening came to a close, but no one ever got sick from it. Ever.

And the tree would stand as a magnificent testament to a day's work, and we would sing carols and break off into the various groups to entertain ourselves; some of us raising aforementioned hell and others a little more restrained.

And when the season was over, we would procrastinate taking the tree down (hmmm, something else I guess that makes me realize that I didn't fall far from the tree) and one tiny shake of the mighty pine would find countless evergreen needles in the rug. In hindsight, it was a miracle that our 12-foot tinder stick never went up in flames, and for that I am truly grateful.

In our modern world of Internetfed fear, we see many videos of Christmas trees going up in the blink of an eye, and I for one am glad to have an artificial tree; a nice one. It's worth not worrying about things as the holiday comes to an end.

But maybe one of these days I can pay tribute to my father and Griswald a tree like the good old days. A pan of lasagna and a fire extinguisher and I think I'd be all set.

Lasagna

makes a 9-inch square pan 8 ounces Ground beef 8 ounces Hot Italian sausage 1/2 Red onion, minced 6 cloves garlic, crushed EV olive oil, as needed 3 sticks celery, minced 1 medium Carrot, minced 2 cup Fresh chicken stock 1 can crushed tomatoes 1/2 cup Dry red wine 2 Tbsp. Italian seasoning 1 cup Blanched spinach 1 box Barilla 'Fresh Pasta' lasagna sheets

1 cup Ricotta cheese

12 ounces Mozzarella cheese 8 ounces 6-cheese Italian Blend

1. Preheat the oven to 375

2. Cook the beef and sausage in olive oil until done through, making sure to break it up

3. Add the onion, garlic, celery and carrot and cook until tender

4. Add the chicken stock, tomatoes, spinach and red wine and bring to a boil

5. Add the Seasoning and get a pan ready to assemble

6. In a 9x9 pan, ladle some of your sauce. It needs to be loose because the pasta is dry and will absorb this liquid

7. Add a layer of pasta sheets, and top with a little more sauce, ricotta and shredded cheeses

8. Alternate this until all of the ingredients are gone, being sure to finish with sauce and cheese on the top

9. Spray a piece of parchment paper well and place this side down on the lasagna

10. Cover this with foil and bake until the internal temperature hits about 155-160

11. Remove the foil and paper and finish in the oven until the cheese is bubbly and golden on the top

12. Serve with a killer green salad to make this the perfect cold-weather treat

> – Paul G. Suplee is an Assistant Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. Find his ePortfolio at www.heartofakitchen.com.

NOW PLAYING

75th Street and the bay Ocean City 410-524-7575 www.bjsonthewater.com Dec. 9: Full Circle, 9 p.m. Dec. 10: Over Time, 9 p.m. Dec. 14: Old School, 5 p.m.

BOURBON STREET ON THE BEACH

116th Street, behind Fountain Head Towers Condominium Ocean City 443-664-2896 www.bourbonstreetonthebeach.com Dec. 9: Sir Rod, 7-11 p.m. Dec. 10: Pearl, 7-11 p.m. Dec. 11: Just Jay, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 14: Open Mic, 8-11 p.m. Dec. 15: Chris Button, 7-10 p.m.

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

15th St. & Baltimore Ave. Ocean City 410-289-7192 www.captainstableoc.com Every Friday & Saturday: Phil Perdue, 5:30 p.m.

CASINO AT OCEAN DOWNS

10218 Racetrack Road Berlin 410-641-0600 www.oceandowns.com Dec. 9: Monkee Paw Duo, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 10: Everett Spells, 4:30-8:30 p.m.; Monkee Paw Duo, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

DUFFY'S TAVERN

130th Street in the Montego Bay Shopping Center 410-250-1449 www.duffysoc.com Every Friday: Bob Hughes, 5-9 p.m.

FAGER'S ISLAND

60th Street and the bay Ocean City 410-524-5500 www.fagers.com Dec. 9: DJ Hook, 9 p.m. Dec. 10: DJ Groove, 9 p.m.

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road West Ocean City 410-213-1846 www.ocharborside.com Dec. 9: DJ Billy T, 4 p.m. Dec. 10: Simple Truth/Side Project, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m. Dec. 11: Opposite Directions, 2-6 p.m.; DJ Billy T, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 14: Karaoke w/DJ Jeremy Dec. 15: Opposite Directions, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

HARPOON HANNA'S

Route 54 and the bay Fenwick Island, Del. 800-227-0525 302-539-3095 www.harpoonhannasrestaurant.com Dec. 9: Dave Hawkins, 5-10 p.m. Dec. 10: Dave Sherman, 6-10 p.m. Dec. 15: Kevin Poole, 6-10 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

In the Horizons Restaurant In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel 101st Street and the ocean Ocean City 410-524-3535 www.clarionoc.com Every Wednesday-Sunday: DJ Dusty, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 9-10: Power Play, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay Ocean City 410-524-4900 www.seacrets.com Dec 9: JJ Rupp, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec 10: Full Circle, 5-9 p.m.; DJ Cruz, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Blue Label, 10 p.m. to 1:50 a.m.

SKYE RAW BAR & GRILLE

66th Street, bayside Ocean City 410-723-6762 www.skyebaroc.com Dec. 9: TBA, 4-8 p.m. Dec. 10: Aaron Howell, 4-8 p.m.

THE COVE AT OCEAN PINES YACHT CLUB

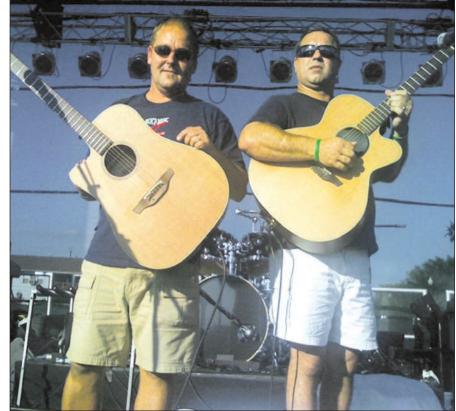
1 Mumford's Landing Road Ocean Pines 410-641-7501 www.oceanpines.org Dec. 9: Still Rockin, 6-10 p.m.

TOUCH OF ITALY

67th Street and Coastal Highway, in the Holiday Inn Oceanfront Ocean City 302-703-3090 Every Tuesday: Piano Bar w/Bryan Russo, 9 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17 Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines 443-365-2576 www.whiskersbar.com Dec. 9: Karaoke w/Donnie Berkey



OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS Harborside Bar & Grill: Sunday, December 11, 2 p.m.



SIR ROD Bourbon Street On The Beach: Friday, December 9, 7 p.m.



Friday, Saturday evening

shows, matinee Sunday

for Pocomoke City venue

(Dec. 8, 2016) Staging a live pro-

duction of "Babes in Toyland" at the

Mar-Va Theater in Pocomoke City is a true community effort, beginning

with the cast and crew, but is also de-

pendent on the audience coming out

to see the show, according to Katy

Fleming, executive director of the the-

For all the work that goes into the

production, it's nice when you look

out to have a full house looking back,'

The play opens Friday night at 7

p.m., with another show set for on

Saturday evening at the same time. A

Sunday matinee will be offered at 2

p.m. Tickets are \$20 for VIP seating,

which is located towards the front and

center of the theater, and \$15 for gen-

eral admission. Tickets are \$10 for

seniors, children under 12 and active

The cast, composed of more than

30 people from ages 2 and up, have

been preparing for the performance

since October, Fleming said. The

duty military personnel.

"We're all trying to pull our weight.

By Brian Gilliland

Associate Editor

ater.

she said.

PRIME RIB Sat 12/10

(Open for lunch 11am-4pm, dinner 4-10pm, bar open til 12pm) 4-7pm: Happy Hour

4-10pm: Queen-Cut (10oz) \$18, King-Cut Prime Rib (14oz) \$21*

FOOTBALL Sun 12/11

(Open for brunch 9am-1pm, lunch til 4pm, dinner 4-9pm, bar open til 11:30pm / end of game)

\$3 Craft Brews, \$5 Crushes 4-7pm: Happy Hour

TAILGATE Mon 12/1.

(Open for lite fare 6pm-end of game) 6-11pm: SIP N' SHOP Featuring LuLaRoe, doTerra & more! **Buy 1 APP, Get 1 FREE** (2nd appetizer m ust be of equal of lesser value) **Domestic Pitcher + 10 Wings, \$5**

12/16: PARENTS' NIGHT OUT! Parents enjoy Date Night Dinner downstairs while the kids watch a movie & eat dinner upstairs. \$15/child, \$10/add'l sibling (parents pay regular dinner prices) **Pre-registration required**

12/31: New Year's Eve Party! Dinner & Dance Party til 1am! **Call for reservations!** *Tax & gratuity not included

410.641.7501 dining@oceanpines.org OceanPines.org

troupe has been rehearsing the show twice weekly.

Mar-Va Theater to present

'Babes in Toyland' this wknd.

But that's just the performers. Fleming and board member Christina Garrett have been working behind the scenes nearly every day as well to prepare sets, get costumes together and ensure everything goes off smoothly.

"Everything we do, except for me, is volunteer. Christina is working on the sets, directing the show and is in charge of the costumes too," Fleming said.

Ever since the previous live performance at the theater, "Dracula," which had a two-day run in late October, Fleming said she and Garrett have been at the theater nearly every day to make things right for the next show.

"We don't want to leave a single piece out, because the entire puzzle suffers. This is a musical too, so it's an extra challenge. So far, it's coming together pretty well," she said. "This is community theater, so a lot of the performers go up and down the shore looking for venues to perform. We have someone from Exmore, Virginia and someone's coming down from Delmar, Delaware to be in the show."

After Babes in Toyland's run, Fleming said the next live show at the Mar-Va will be "Jesus Christ Superstar" in the spring.



TRIVIA NITE Thurs 12/08

(Open for dinner 4-9pm, bar open til 11:30pm / end of game)

4-7pm: Happy Hour 5:30-8pm: Pub Trivia w/ Special Menu, Prizes, DJ Thursday Night Football: **Tailgate Specials at the Bar**

DATE NITE *Fri 12/09*

(Open for lunch 11am-4pm, dinner upstairs 4-10pm, bar open til 12pm)

4-7pm: Happy Hour 4-10pm: 2 Entrées, Shared Appetizer, **Dessert & Bottle of Wine, \$60** 6-10pm (upstairs): STILL ROCKIN



at Ocean Pines Yacht Club, 1 Mumford's Landing Rd, Ocean Pines, MD



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Calendar

Please send calendar items to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday. All community-related activities will be published at no charge.



KIWANIS NEW MEMBER

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City inducted Charlene "Char" Vanvick during its Nov. 2 meeting in the Ocean Pines Community Center. She was an associate member, as she is the spouse of Kiwanian Ted Vanvick, but decided to become a full member with voting rights. She is pictured with, from left, Membership Chair Mike Morton, her husband, Ted, and Club President Barbara Peletier, right.

book authors, Chinese auction, breakfast served until 1 p.m. and Santa for the kids. Benefiting Boy Scout Troop #2173.

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 9:30 a.m. Bill O'Brien, owner of Shore Tackle & Custom Rods of Grasonville, Md., will discuss inshore fishing for striped bass covering location, tackle and techniques. Member are reminded to bring a canned good or donation for Diakonia Shelter. All welcome. Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662

HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES WITH SANTA

Boardwalk Inlet area, 809 S Atlantic Ave, Ocean City, MD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Take a ride with Santa in his big red sleigh on the Boardwalk! Rides available 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, December 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18 and 24. Cost is \$10 per person. Kids 3 years and under ride free. Randy Davis, 443-783-1409

ANNUAL TEA WITH SANTA AND **MRS. CLAUS**

Poplar Hill Mansion, 117 Elizabeth St., Salisbury, MD, 1 to 4 p.m. Featuring peppermint tea, punch, assorted sweets and a visit and picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Clause. Photos will be mailed to home addresses. See the house fully decorated of the Holiday Season with nutcrackers, Christmas village and a Christmas tree with more than 1,000 ornaments. Cost is \$5 per mailing address. 410-749-1776

'EXCERPTS FROM THE NUTCRACKER' PERFORMANCE

Ocean Pines Yacht Club, One Mumford's Landing Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Pointe Youth Dance Theatre presents "Excepts from The Nutcracker" with a little bit of jazz. There will be sweets and treats for purchase.

Also, have your picture taken with your favorite character. Reservations are recommended. Open to the public. Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$10 for children ages 4 and older. Tickets: Christy Windon, 443-880-0930 or Shelly Olafsson, 209-277-0001

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' PERFORMANCE

Washington Academy and High School, 10902 Old Princess Anne Road, Princess Anne, MD, 7 p.m. The Lower Shore Performing Arts Company will present "A Christmas Carol." The cast will be comprised of local residents, Somerset County Public Schools staff members and students. Cost is \$12 for general admission, \$8 for seniors 65 years and older, military and children 12 years and younger. http://www.lowershorepac.org

SUN, DEC. 11

ALL-U-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET

Berlin Fire Hall, 214 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, creamed chipped beef, hash browns, waffles, biscuits, coffee, milk and juice. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12 years and free to those 4 and younger. Carry-outs cost \$7.

HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES WITH SANTA

Boardwalk Inlet area, 809 S Atlantic Ave, Ocean City, MD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Take a ride with Santa in his big red sleigh on the Boardwalk! Rides available 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, December 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18 and 24. Cost is \$10 per person. Kids 3 years and under ride free. Randy Davis, 443-783-1409

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin,

THU, DEC. 8

YOUNG & RESTLESS 'REINDEER GAMES'

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD, 10:30 a.m. Holiday art and games for ages 3 to 7 years. 410-632-3495, http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 11 a.m. The group meets every Thursday. Free and open to anyone who has lost a loved one, not just Coastal Hospice families. 410-251-8163

BEACH SINGLES

Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4 to 7 p.m. Every Thursday, Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour. Arlene or Kate, 302-436-9577 or 410-524-0649

'JAZZIN' AT THE GLITZ' DINNER SHOW

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Crystal Ballroom, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 6 p.m. Musical comedy presented by Versakats, Inc. to benefit ovarian cancer research. Features a late 1920's theme and includes more than 20 songs of the era. Guests are invited to dress in period costume (optional) and sing along. Cost is \$45, which includes a buffet dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the show at 7 p.m. Cash bar with happy hour prices. Info: Pat Schrawder, 410-726-1234 or Mary Kirtley, 410-250-4689

BINGO

American Legion Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available at 5:15 p.m. Open to the public. 410-289-3166, http://www.alpost166.org

FRI, DEC. 9

FREE INTRODUCTORY PICKLEBALL CLINICS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, Ocean Pines, MD, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Every Friday through Dec. 16. Free clinic for brand new players. Registration is required by calling 410-641-7052.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 4:30 p.m. Enjoy a 2nd Friday Fundraiser dinner from 4:30-6:30. Menu includes chicken, green beans, baked potato, salad, drink and dessert. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 8 and younger. The free Christmas Concert begins at 7 p.m. Featuring organists and pianists Ellsworth Wheatley and Ty Thompson. A love offering will be taken. Proceeds benefit the organ fund. Advance tickets: 443-614-2518

'JAZZIN' AT THE GLITZ' DINNER SHOW

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Crystal Ballroom, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 6 p.m. Musical comedy presented by Versakats, Inc. to benefit ovarian cancer research. Features a late 1920's theme and includes more than 20 songs of the era. Guests are invited to dress in period costume (optional) and sing along. Cost is \$45, which includes a buffet dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the show at 7 p.m. Cash bar with happy hour prices. Info: Pat Schrawder, 410-726-1234 or Mary Kirtley, 410-250-4689

FREE SHOWING OF "THE POLAR EXPRESS"

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 6:30 p.m. A free showing of "The Polar Express" will take place at the community center. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.; the movie will start at 7 p.m. Attendees should bring a blanket or chair to sit on. Light refreshments will be served and all children will receive a movie-themed gift. info@oceanpines.org, 410-641-7052, http://OceanPines.org

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' PERFORMANCE

Washington Academy and High School, 10902 Old Princess Anne Road, Princess Anne, MD, 7 p.m. The Lower Shore Performing Arts Company will present "A Christmas Carol." The cast will be comprised of local residents, Somerset County Public Schools staff members and students. Cost is \$12 for general admission, \$8 for seniors 65 years and older, military and children 12 years and younger. http://www.lowershorepac.org

SAT, DEC. 10

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Powellville United Methodist Church, 35606 Mt. Hermon Road, Powellville, MD, 8 to 10:30 a.m. The United Methodist Men will host a breakfast buffet with scrapple, sausage, bacon, eggs,

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, MD, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Homemade, fancy, holiday bdm58oct@comcast.net, 410-213-8238

FARMERS MARKET

Ocean Pines, MD, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Held every Saturday. Locally grown vegetables and fruits, eggs, honey, kettle korn, flowers, artisan breads, seafood, meats and more. New vendors welcome. 410-641-7717, Ext. 3006

Bishopville Fire House, 10709 Bishopville Road, Bishopville, MD, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Crafters, direct sales consultants,

mas White Elephant Room. Barbara,

biscuits, fruit and pancakes. Cost is \$8 for ages 12 and older. 443-880-8804 **CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK** cookies sold by the pound. Also Christ-

White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway,

HOLIDAY CRAFT/VENDOR SHOW

A CHRISTMAS CABARET' PERFORMANCE Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 2 p.m. The Red Doors Community Center presents A Christmas Cabaret. Tickets cost \$8. 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326, http://www.ocmdperformingartscenter.com

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' PERFORMANCE

Washington Academy and High School, 10902 Old Princess Anne Road, Princess Anne, MD, 2 p.m. The Lower Shore Performing Arts Company will present "A Christmas Carol." The cast will be comprised of local residents, Somerset County Public Schools staff members and students. Cost is \$12 for general admission, \$8 for seniors 65 years and older, military and children 12 years and younger. http://www.lowershorepac.org

MON, DEC. 12

STEAM PM

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD, 3:45 p.m. "Explore the Ocean " features hands on, ocean themed science, math and art activities. For ages 6 years and older. 410-632-3495

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Atlantic General Hospital, conference room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Berlin group No. 169. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. Edna Berkey, 410-251-2083

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 7 to 9 p.m. The group meets each Monday. Women interested in learning the craft of a cappella singing welcome. 410-641-6876

TUE, DEC. 13

SNOW HILL ROTARY CLUB MEETING

All Hallows Church Parish House, 109 W. Market Street, Snow Hill, MD, 7:30 a.m. Contact agibb1@verizon.net or 410-546-1978 for more information.

PLAY TIME

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Children, infant to 5 years old, will read, sing, talk, write and play with educational toys. 410-641-0650, http://www.worcesterlibrary.org

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 2:30 to 4 p.m. For individuals suffering from Parkinson's. Group provides education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Ron and Mary Leidner, 410-430-0456, http://www.DelmarvaParkinsonsAlliance.org

MCBP SEEKING SEAL STEWARD VOLUNTEERS AND HOSTING TRAINING

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 5 p.m. Maryland Coastal Bays Program is currently recruiting and hosting a volunteer training for sea stewards. National Aquarium's Marine Animal Stranding Coordinator, Jen Dittmar, will conduct the training. Seal Steward volunteers are on call to man seal haul outs for the protection of the seal and the community. Educational material and information provided so that stewards can inform interested on-lookers. Contact Sandi at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or 410-213-2297, Ext. 106, if planning to attend the training. If you encounter a seal on the beach this winter, call MARP's direct line at 410-576-3880 or 800-628-9944 and register your sighting on the MCBP Web site, mdcoastalbays.org.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING

Worcester County Health Center, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Berlin group 331. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. jeanduck47@gmail.com

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Offers shared wisdom and problem solving for family members of persons with mental illness. The group is free. Info: Carole Spurrier, 410-208-4003,

carolespurrier@msn.com or Gail S. Mansell, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

BINGO

Pocomoke Elks Lodge 1624, 1944 Worcester Highway, Pocomoke City, MD, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m., early bingo at 7 p.m. and regular games start at 7:30 p.m. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available. Open to the public. 410-957-3556

WED, DEC. 14

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 8 a.m. Meets every Wednesday. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. 410-641-7330, http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org

COASTAL EARLY LEARNING CENTER OPEN HOUSE AND RIBBON CUTTING

Coastal Early Learning Center, 9729 Seahawks Road, Berlin, MD, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce will host the ribbon cutting at 4:30 p.m. An open house is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All Worcester County business people (employers and employees) are invited to attend and take part in the ribbon cutting. Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce, 410-641-



OP BOAT CLUB OFFICERS

Ocean Pines Boat Club announced its new 2017 officers during the "Change of Watch" annual meeting and dinner-dance on Nov. 6 at the Clarion Hotel on 101st Street in Ocean City. Pictured, in front, from left, are Doris Lloyd, Patricia Marchesiello and Nancy Engelke, and in back, Steven Stein, Walter Lischak, Fred Heinlen, Stuart Glassman, Commodore Richard Marchesiello, Thomas Southwell and Joseph DiMartino.

5306

WCHS DINNER FUNDRAISER

Chipotle, 12909 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City, MD, 2 to 9 p.m. Mention to the cashier that you are there for the fundraiser and Chipotle will donate 50 percent of sales to the Worcester County Humane Society.

RETIRED NURSES OF OCEAN PINES COCKTAIL PARTY

Sally Smith's House, 5 p.m. In celebration of the holiday season. Also, the officers for 2017 will be installed. Cost is \$15, reservations required. Sally Smith, 410-208-0564

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB

Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., Ocean City, MD, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Jitterbug, swing, cha-cha to the sounds of the '50s, '60s and Carolina Beach music. Meets every Wednesday. dance@delmarvahanddancing.com, 302-200-3262, http://delmarvahanddancing.com

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING

Captain's Table Restaurant in the Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St, Ocean City, MD, 6 p.m. The group meets every Wednesday. cliff0917@aol.com, 410-641-1700

ONGOING EVENTS

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! OFFERS Half price admission

Ripley's Believe It or Not!, 401 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, MD, from Nov. 28 through Dec. 18. Maryland residents receive half price tickets for participating attractions including: Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium, Ripley's Marvelous Mirror Maze and Ripley's Impossible LaseRace. Local photo ID or proof of residency required. Dustyn

Ivey, 410-289-5600, ivey@ripleys.com.

FALL AND WINTER BUS TRIPS

On Dec. 18, enjoy a performance of "Kinky Boots." The bus will leave Ocean Pines at 9:30 a.m. and arrive at the DuPont Theatre in Wilmington, Del. for the 2 p.m. show. Cost is \$90, which includes show and transportation. On Jan. 7, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. presents "Wicked." The bus will depart Ocean Pines at 8:30 a.m. to arrive in time for the 1:30 p.m. performance. Cost is \$120, which includes show and transportation. Open to the public. Reservations re-

Quired: Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052.

THE AVENUE OF TREES

Along Baltimore Avenue from 15th Street to 33rd Street, through Jan. 1, 2017. Info: 410-250-0125.

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, through Jan. 1, 2017. Board the Winterfest Express and tour hundreds of animated, lighted displays. The heated, Winterfest Village pavillion features hot chocolate, Yukon Cornelius' gift shop and photos with Santa. Admission is \$5 or adults and free to children 11 and younger. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5:30-10:30 p.m. Info: 800-626-2326 or 410-250-0125.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

RCIA is a process for individuals, adults and children 8 years and older, who are seeking Baptism. Also for those already baptized in another Christian tradition who want to come into the Catholic Church. Call Rita at 410-289-7038 or come to a session held on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Father Connell Parish Center, 1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD. All are welcome.





December 8, 2016

COMMERCIAL

Berlin, 225 sq. ft. Office Space, \$275/mo. includes utils. Two 120 sq. ft. Storage Sheds, each \$95/mo. Call 410-726-5471 or 410-641-4300.

2 Office/Retail Spaces & 3 Warehouse Units available in West Ocean City. Call 443-497-4200.

Downtown Boardwalk Business for Sale Turn-key T-shirt shop. 930 sq. ft. \$29,900.00 Inquire to: ttgeez egmail.com

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DONATIONS

Do you have an old bicycle not being used? It could mean a world of difference to a hardworking international student. We are looking to get as many bikes as possible. Your donation will be tax-deductible. Contact Gary at 443-975-3065.

OUTLET SALE

AMAZING PRIME OUTLET -9 Mason Dr., Selbyville, DE. 50% Off Your Favorite Favorite Items! Open Fri, 10-6 and Sat., 7-3

FOR SALE

36-Inch, Anderson Storm Door w/retractable screen. Burgundy frame. Like new! \$150. Call **410-208-3860.**

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Bayside Gazette

lamps, kitchen & bath, collect-ables. Too many items to list!! Preview Friday upon re-quest. Call 540-538-4956.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE. 12/10, 8am-till-3ish. 12639 Whisper Trace, Oyster Har-

VEHICLES

1966 Chevrolet Corvette C2 Sting Ray, 4 speed coupe, 327/300HP, silver pearl/black

hicelinda30@gmail.com /

240-391-3485

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Place vour ad on Facebook: Twitter; LinkedIN and Google Ads Words through MDDC's Social Media Ad Network; Call today to find out maximize your presence on So Media; 410-212-0616; email Wanda Smith Social 10 0 wsmith@mddcpress.com

CLASSIFIED AD NETWORK

Bulk advertising at its best: advertise in over 70 newspapers and reach millions of readers \$17.25-\$26.47 PER HOUR; \$17.25-\$26.47 PER TIGO.1, Hiring Store Promoters at BJ's Wholesale Club; NO EX-PERIENCE NEEDED; RE-TIREES WELCOME; Local TIREES WELCOME; Local with ONE call. Broaden your reach and get results for pennies per reader. Call Wanda at 410-212-0616 or email TIREES WELCOME; Loca-tions include Columbia, Walwsmith@mddcpress.com. dorf; Bowie and Landover CALL DAVID 443-449-4025

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EARN \$500 A DAY: Insurance Agents Needed * Leads, No Cold Calls * Commission Paid Daily * Lifetime Renewals * Complete Training * Health & Dental Insurance * Life License Required. Call 1-888-713-6020

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Delaware New Move-In Ready Homes! Low Taxes! Close to Beaches, Gated, Olympic pool. FOUR New Homes from \$90's. No HOA Fees. Brochures Available 1-866-629-0770 or www.coolbranch.com

Want a larger footprint in the marketplace consider adver-tising in the MDDC Small Dis-play 2x2 or 2x4 Advertising Network. Reach 3.6 million readers every week by placing your ad in 71 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. With just one phone call, your business and/or product will be seen by 3.6 million readers HURRY... 3.6 million readers HURRY space is limited, CA TODAY!! CALL

SALES & MARKETING

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Call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or 410-212-0616 email wsmith@mddcpress.com or visit our website at www.mddcpress.com

Advertise in MDDC 410-723-6397

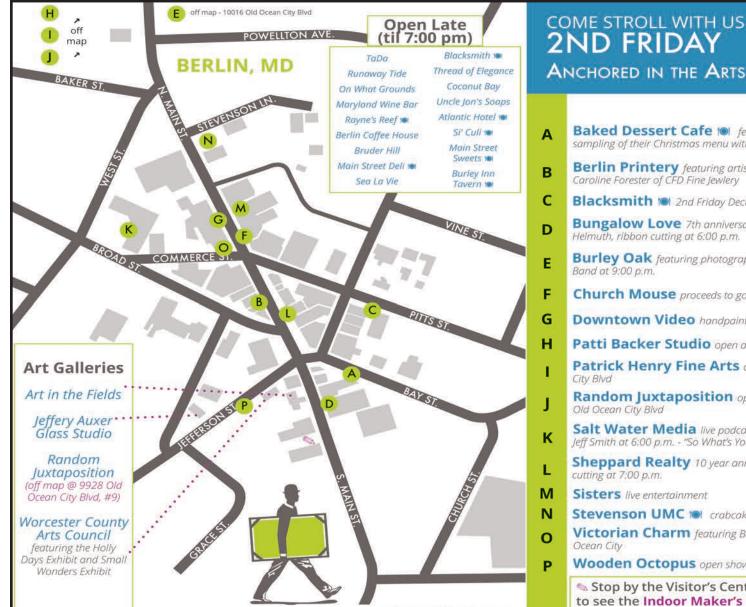
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Maryland, Delaware and D.C.: 106 papers with a circulation of 2.3 million and readership of 4.9 million!

For only \$495

Deadline is Wednesday of the week prior to publication.

Call 410-723-6397 for more information



Murals, movies, music, and more! Donate at www.artsinberlin.org! ✓

Anchored in the Arts



- Baked Dessert Cafe I featuring Jane Bollman and a sampling of their Christmas menu with a wine tasting
- Berlin Printery featuring artist Brian Robertson and silversmith Caroline Forester of CFD Fine Jewlery
- Blacksmith 10 2nd Friday Deck Party
- Bungalow Love 7th anniversary open house, live music by Dana Helmuth, ribbon cutting at 6:00 p.m.
- Burley Oak featuring photographer Nick Tribuno and the Jason Ager E Band at 9:00 p.m
 - Church Mouse proceeds to go to Christmas items for local families
 - Downtown Video handpainted gourds
 - Patti Backer Studio open art studio @ 314 N. Main Street
 - Patrick Henry Fine Arts open art studio @ 9928 Old Ocean City Blvc

Random Juxtaposition open art studio / show room @ 9928 Old Ocean City Blvd

Salt Water Media live podcast with local authors Tony Russo and Jeff Smith at 6:00 p.m. - "So What's Your Story?" podcast

- Sheppard Realty 10 year anniversary open house with a ribbon cutting at 7:00 p.m.
- Sisters live entertainment
- Stevenson UMC I crabcake dinner plus two sides
- Victorian Charm featuring Bunk Mann and his book, Vanishing Ocean City
- Wooden Octopus open show room @ 8 Jefferson Street

Stop by the Visitor's Center (marked on the map) to see the Indoor Maker's Market with local artisans and live music!

Bayside Gazette

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